





# THE KOREA REVIEW

MAY 1902

## Necessity, the Mother of Invention.

Han Chun-deuk was without doubt a very wealthy man, even from a western standpoint. His annual income consisted of 200,000 bags of rice. He lived just above the Su-pyo-dari or "Water Gauge Bridge," a fashionable quarter of the city in those days—namely, a hundred and fifty years ago. But he was as generous as he was rich. Fifty thousand bags of rice were consumed yearly in supporting his near and distant relatives and fifty thousand more in charities, or we might better say, in other charities. Any one who was ill or in distress or lacked the means to bury a parent or to take a wife had but to apply to Mr. Han and the means would be forthcoming. In such veneration was this philanthropist held by the whole community that never was anything, even a tile, stolen from his place:

Such was the man whom one Cho, living in Nu-gak-kol west of the Kyöng-bok Palace, marked for his victim. This Cho had come of a wealthy family but his elder brother, who of course took charge of the estate upon the demise of the father, had squandered the patrimony in riotous living and dying childless had left to Cho a legacy of debts. These had eaten up the remnants of the estate and now, thrown upon a cold and heartless world, the man accustomed to a life of ease

and uninstructed in any useful trade, was in danger of falling to the status of "poor white trash" as that term is applied in certain portions of America.

His wife stood in the imminent, deadly breach and fought back the enemy by making tobacco pouches, which she put on the market at ten cash apiece.

One day Cho came in and sat for an hour in deep thought, paying no attention to any words that were addressed to him, but finally raised his head and exclaimed :

"I have it."

His wife gave him a quick startled glance followed by a doubtful sort of smile which seemed to say :

"Yes, you seem to have it very bad," but she did not say it aloud.

"Within two days we will be wealthy folks again," he said. His reason was evidently tottering.

"Hm ! The price of tobacco pouches must have gone way up then," she said. He gave her a glance of scorn.

"Give me one hundred cash and I will build up a fortune as if by magic" he cried. "This is no experiment. It's a sure thing."

She heaved a sigh as if she had heard of sure things before, but nevertheless produced the hundred cash. With this small amount of capital he went to work and made good his word, for ere twenty-four hours had passed he was enormously wealthy. And this moving tale hangs upon the means which he employed to amass a fortune in so short a space of time.

Taking his hundred cash he left the house and was gone all the afternoon. In the evening he returned and spent the major portion of the night in putting a razor edge on a small knife that he had purchased. His wife wondered whether he were going into the barber business or were going to cut his own throat, but she asked no questions.

The following morning at a proper hour Cho presented himself at the gate of the wealthy Han Chun-deuk and asked to see the master of the house. As Cho was a stranger the gateman of course replied that his master was out, but as Cho was insistent he effected an entrance and having announced his approach to the rich man's reception-room by clearing his

throat vigorously he bowed himself into the presence of the philanthropist.

It was still too early for the usual callers to be present and the two men had the room to themselves. After a few irrelevant remarks on the weather and the latest news the caller came to the point.

"Ahem! I have a very special word to speak to you this morning. The fact is that though formerly in good circumstances I have become reduced to the greatest poverty and am in great need of a thousand ounces of silver with which to engage in business. Could you kindly let me have it?"

A thousand ounces of silver! It took even Han's breath away. *A thousand ounces of silver!* Well, well, here *was* a case. The history of his philanthropies had seen no such monumental effrontery. And he an unknown man, asking for a thousand ounces of silver before he had told his name or been in the room ten minutes. The good man fairly stammered:

"But,—but—how—but how can I give you all that silver when I don't know you, nor anything about your particular circumstances, nor your plans?" The visitor sat with downcast eyes and never a sign of embarrassment on his features. He spoke in a slow unimpassioned voice.

"It simply means that unless you give me the silver, my life ends to-day," and he fixed the poor philanthropist with a glassy stare that made him shiver.

"Why, my dear fellow, how in the world—what is the sense—I don't see where the logic of it comes in. Here you come a perfect stranger and—"

"That has nothing to do with it at all, I need a thousand ounces of silver or my life is forfeit."

"But a *thousand ounces!* Come now, let us say a hundred and I will let you have it, but a thousand,—no, no."

"Very well" answered Cho in the same quiet tone, and he rose as if to go but as he gained his feet he drew out the sharp knife plunged it into his abdomen and cut a frightful gash from left to right and fell headlong before the horrified Han and lay weltering in his own life-blood.

The poor philanthropist wrung his hands in an agony of fear. What should he do? The knife had fallen to the

floor at his feet and who would believe that the unknown visitor had killed himself. He sprang to the outer door and made it fast. Then he went to the inner apartments and sent one of the woman slaves to call his trusted body-servant. Him only he admitted into the presence of the dead and told the story, and begged the servant to help him out of the difficulty. The latter thought a few moments and then said.

“What is the man’s name and where does he live?”

“He never told his name but from what he said I judge that his home is in Nu-gak-kol.”

“Well, then the only thing to do is to let me put the body in a straw bag together with the knife and carry it to Nu-gak-kol, set it down there somewhere and then under pretense of going for a drink of wine I can slip away. The bag will be opened and the people there will recognize the dead man and take him to his home.”

“Just the thing” cried the master, and a great load seemed lifted off his mind, but while the servant was away finding the bag the fear came back, not the fear of detection but fear lest the spirit of the dead should bring him evil. This impression grew stronger and stronger. How could this calamity be averted? Perhaps if he complied with the dead man’s request it would quiet the departed spirit; so he brought from his strong box a thousand ounces of silver, about sixty pounds in weight, and tied them securely in one corner of the skirt of the dead man’s coat. But he did not tell his servant this, for even the most faithful of servants might think the silver better spent upon the living than upon the dead.

When the servant returned, the body, just as it was, was unceremoniously dumped into the straw bag and placed upon a *jigi*, or porter’s carrying frame. The servant found the load heavier than he had anticipated, but finally arrived in Nu-gak-kol. It was just noon of a sultry summer day and the streets were nearly deserted. He set down his burden in a returned corner and wiped the perspiration from his brow. He glanced around the corner and saw that the coast was clear, so hastily throwing the bag upon the ground he shouldered the *jigi* and made off; but some evil chance made him turn back to see if the bag was all right. Oh horror of

horrors! a ghaastly face was peering at him over the edge of the bag. One eye was winking violently while the other was concealed by the headband that had become displaced. The mouth was screwed into a shape that put to shame the devil guardians of the realms of hell, such as he had seen depicted in the monasteries. With a low moan of terror he started back, but just at that point a ditch crossed the street and stepping into this he was sent sprawling on the ground. Another instant and he was up and off at a pace that would bid defiance to the fleetest *tokgabi* that ever dogged the footsteps of mortal man.

The face above the edge of the bag watched the stricken fugitive out of sight and then a broad smile took the place of the diabolical grimace that had done its work so well. Cho, for it was none other, emerged from the bag and all bedraggled, ensanguined and dishevelled as he was, hugged that heavy coat-skirt in his arms and slunk into a neighboring door-way, for chance had favored him and he had been put down almost before his own house.

Before many days had elapsed Cho and his family moved to the south where he invested in piece goods and other products of sunny Chulla.

There years went by, each one of which doubled the capital of the thrifty Cho, and again we see him in Seoul dressed in the best the silk-shops could offer and standing once more before the gate of the great Han Chun-deuk. No one challenged him this time. His gorgeous raiment was passport enough.

He found the philanthropist in his reception room, and after introducing himself came right down to business.

"Didn't you lend a man a thousand ounces of silver some three years ago?"

Great heavens! the murder was out. This man might have the police at his back. He must be "fixed" and that immediately.

"Hush," whispered the poor philanthropist "not quite so loud please. So you know about that little thing too. Well I can make it better worth your while to keep still about it than to bring it to the notice of the authorities."



"On the other hand" replied the visitor calmly "I am here on purpose to pay back that loan."

"You?"

"Yes, you see I am the man whom you sent away in the bag."

Han was speechless.

"Yes, I want both to pay back the money and to make a confession. It was a desperate chance with me. I was driven quite to the wall and if it had not been for that pig's bladder full of beef blood that I carried under my coat I don't know how in the world I could have brought about a change in my fortunes. But I am well off now and am ready to pay back the silver with interest." And he told the wondering Han about his business venture.

It was fully ten minutes before Han had fairly gotten his breath again, and then he exclaimed :

"By the shades of Yi Sun-sin, that was the neatest thing I ever heard of. I won't take back a cent of that money ; you earned it all and more. But, I say, come up to Seoul and I can put you onto something much better than piece-goods. I want someone to help me handle my property and teach my son to carry on the estate. You are just the man. Say you'll come."

And Cho came.

## Remusat on the Korean Alphabet.

A few days ago as I was looking over that charming and still valuable work of Mr. Abel Remusat, entitled *Recherches sur les Langues Tartares*, which was published in 1820, I came across an interesting page about the Korean alphabet and although he had comparatively few sources of information about it he has given us some very interesting comments, and these coming from an independent source and from a man of such unquestioned linguistic ability are not without scientific value even after the lapse of almost a century. For this reason I have seen fit to translate what he has said about the Korean alphabet, for the benefit of the readers of



the *Review*, some of whom may not be burning with curiosity to know where the Korean alphabet came from, while others undoubtedly are.

In Chapter III. of this great work, while discussing the question whether the Tartar tribes may have had a written language previous to the introduction of the Syriac by the Nestorians, he remarks that if they had such a written language it must have been phonetic rather than ideographic and then goes on to say :

“Now there exists, in a country, which has uniformly been a vassal of the Tartars, a form of writing which fulfills precisely the conditions above mentioned, and whose origin is unknown. It is the form of writing of which the Koreans make use when they do not use the Chinese character.

It is not ideographic like the Chinese nor syllabic like the Japanese but it is a true alphabet with nine vowels and fifteen consonants, which both in their form and in the method of grouping them find no analogy in any other known alphabet. The Chinese authors that I have been able to consult in regard to Korean matters preserve a complete silence regarding this writing and they do not furnish a single clue by which to determine the date when the Korean alphabet was invented. As I have shown above, this might easily be the *Khi-tan* or *Niu-chen* form of writing, adopted doubtless at the height of the Tartar power by the Koreans their neighbors and vassals, and it remains for me to show, in default of more positive proof, that nothing that we actually know contradicts this conjecture.

The Koreans have on the east the Japanese from whom they surely did not take their form of writing. Besides the radical difference that I have before observed and which separates in a marked degree the written characters of the two people, we find that the very same sounds are rendered by the two people in ways that are totally different \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \* To the south-west of Korea we find China from whose writing the Korean can have come only indirectly. The inventors of the Korean alphabet, if they took the Chinese characters as the basis of their work, have had to make such changes and these changes have been pushed to such a point that it seems to us impossible to recognize from

what Chinese character any particular Korean letter was derived. With the Japanese this is not so. (here the author quotes several of the characters of the *kata-kana* and *hiro-kana* showing from what Chinese characters they were evidently taken.) But the alteration has been much greater in Korean, and although **ㄱ** may have come from **ㄱ** *ki*, and **ㅋ** from **初** *tsou*, as in the Japanese cases above cited, it is only analogy that guides us, since it is more natural to think that they imitated characters already existing than to suppose that they made them entirely new. On the whole the changes mentioned by the Chinese when speaking of the *Khi-tan* characters and those which the Korean have been able to bring about would explain sufficiently the difficulty we have in discovering the origin of the modern Korean alphabet.

The Thibetan alphabet is the only one that, on the score of form and of orthographic law, can offer any considerable analogy to the Korean. The **ㅁ** of the Korean and the **ᄃ** of the Thibetan, the Korean **ㅂ** and the Thibetan **ᄂ**, the Korean **ㅅ** and the Thibetan **ᄆ**, and some others besides are certainly not lacking in resemblance. The Korean **ㅇ** has, as in Thibetan, a double usage, the one a nasal sound *ng* when it is a final and the other a sort of mild guttural when it is an initial. But these analogies are not numerous enough nor striking enough to enable us to surmount the difficulty of supposing that the Koreans would have taken as their model the Thibetans, a people whom they could have known only by name and who were separated from them by the whole breadth of the Chinese empire.

There remains then only the country to the north of Korea from which the alphabet can have been derived, and this is precisely the land of *Khi-tan* and *Niu-chin*. One may therefore conclude with a considerable degree of assurance that in the eleventh or twelfth centuries while the Tartars exercised complete control over the peninsula of Korea the letters of the Tartars passed to their subjects perhaps with some changes which, together with those that they had already made in forming their alphabet from the Chinese resulted in making the Korean alphabet quite unrecognizable.\*

\*As having come from the Chinese. (*Ed.*)

I should rather admit this hypothesis than to suppose that the Korean alphabet was invented solely by that people, for in the latter case Chinese histories would not have failed to mention the fact, as they do the invention of the *K'hi-tan* writing, while on the other hand they have been able to omit, as being of slight importance, the mere introduction or extension of a system already invented."

Now let us briefly examine this opinion and ask what position Remusat would have taken had he been in possession of certain facts that have come to light since the opening of Korea. His opinion is that it is safer to believe that the Korean alphabet was made from some former system than to believe that it was a purely original product and he therefore tries to surmise what that original source or former system may have been. He first eliminates the Japanese syllabary and the Syriac characters on which the modern Manchu script is based, as being out of the question. He says that the desire to find some analogy is the only reason for guessing that the Korean alphabet was made from the Chinese ideographs for the resemblances are so far-fetched as to be practically worthless. He then mentions the Thibetan and shows that there are some striking similarities not only in the form of the letters but in other respects; but he bars the Thibetan because in his belief the Koreans knew nothing about Thibet and were separated from it by the whole breadth of the Chinese empire. But had Remusat been conversant with the fact that; (1) Through Buddhism Korea was filled with Thibetan books and; (2) that at the time of the invention of the Korean alphabet the northern Tartars had been thoroughly crushed by the Ming power and (3) that the scholarship of Korea was at that time as completely confined to the monasteries and the Buddhist system as was learning in Europe at the same time confined to the monastic system, (4) that the best history of the present dynasty, the 燃例記述, distinctly states that the Korean alphabet was made from the Thibetan and the ancient seal character of China and (5) finally that the Thibetan alphabet was the only phonetic system to which the Koreans had access as a model—if he had known all these things, is there the least shade of doubt as to what his decision would have been in the case?

There are one or two things, however, that need to be cleared up. The Thibetan character as used in the Buddhist books in Korea is not the square Thibetan character that bears such a resemblance to the Korean. It is evidently the same, radically, as the square Thibetan but consists of curved lines while the square character, like the Korean, consists of angles. Now the Koreans would naturally search for an angular or square alphabet as being more adapted to the use of the brush pen, just as the Chinese changed from the seal character to the square for the same reason. When therefore the Koreans contemplated the formation of an alphabet and consulted the Thibetan, as exhibited in the Buddhist books, they naturally asked whether there was not a square character corresponding to this round or cursive one and easily found it in China, to which county thirteen expeditions were made by the commission appointed by the king of Korea for the purpose of perfecting an alphabet. Nothing could be more rational or simple than this explanation and an examination of the two alphabets suffices to clinch the matter; for, as Remusat points out, there are not only striking similarities between the forms of the letter, but special letters like  $\Delta$ , which is the old form of the Korean  $\text{ㅇ}$ , have two different uses both in Thibetan and Korean, which eliminates the question of mere coincidence and makes it practically certain that there was some vital connection between the two. For by what mere coincidence could  $\Delta$  be both a final nasal and an initial guttural in both Korean and Thibetan?

But we find a radical difference in form between the Korean consonants and vowels; they are built on a different plan. What else could we expect when we find that the Thibetan is practically without well-defined vowels, even as the Hebrew or Arabic, and that after the Koreans had taken the consonants from the Thibetan they were driven to some other source for their vowel system. For this they fell back upon some of the simpler strokes of the ancient seal character of China.

The objection may be made that some of the Korean works say merely that the Korean alphabet was made from the seal character of China and do not mention the Thibetan. The clear statement of a standard work goes further than

the silence of a dozen others. If one cook-book should say that bread is made of flour and yeast and a dozen others should say that bread is made of flour, without mentioning the yeast, does the silence of the latter in any way invalidate the statement of the former? We think not. And we should be still surer if we knew that some cook-book writers had a prejudice against yeast or were in some way ashamed of its use.

It seems therefore practically sure that the Korean alphabet was formed partly from the Thibetan but there will probably be no absolute proof of it until someone is fortunate enough to unearth a copy of the Hun-min Chōng-eum (訓民正音) the book that was made at the time the alphabet was invented.

## The Products of Korea.

**Wheat.** In China millet and wheat are known by the same name, *mak* 麥, but with this difference that millet is known as "great *mak*" and wheat as "little *mak*." In Korea on the other hand the two cereals have entirely different names, *puri* and *mil*. This goes to show that they both have existed in Korea from very ancient times, for had they been introduced from China they would probably have borne a Chinese name. At the same time we may be reasonably sure that before the days of Kija there was very little grain of any kind raised in Korea and that the extensive cultivation of cereals began at that time.

It is stated that Kija brought seed grain but at first the grain was eaten only by the highest of the nobility. It was not till three or four centuries later that barley and wheat became common articles of food throughout the north. This change came about largely through commercial relations established between Korea and Shantung, where the best Chinese wheat was grown.

The best Korean wheat is raised in P'yŏng-an Province. The people say that if it were properly handled it could be made into as good flour as the American, which has the name



here of being the best in the world. Wheat grows also in all the other provinces and like barley it is considered a supplementary crop to rice, a stand-by in case of a rice famine.

Wheat as well as barley is always sown in drills but while there are both winter barley and spring barley there is only winter wheat. That is, wheat is always planted in the Autumn.

The principal use to which wheat is put is in making a kind of food called *yak-kwa* which means "medicine fruit." The flour is made into a dough with honey and cut into squares and fried in sesamum oil. Without the honey it is called *chun-pyung* a kind of pan-cake. These are universally used in sacrifice at the time of the summer solstice, together with melons. Wheat is very largely used as paste and in the country it is used by the poorer people in the form of a gruel instead of rice.

### **Sorghum.**

This grain is of three kinds called *ch'al-susu*, *mc-susu* and *song-jang susu* meaning glutinous sorghum, dry sorghum and "corpse" sorghum. The last name is derived from the fact that the kernel is inclosed in a wrapping which is supposed to resemble the cerements of the dead. The generic word *susu* is a mimetic word supposed to resemble the rustling sound of the grain when it is poured out.

Of these three kinds the dry sorghum and the "corpse" sorghum are indigenous while the glutinous sorghum came in from China. It is supposed to have originated in central western China at Ch'ul-sung (秣城). In China the stalk of the sorghum is used in making sugar but when brought to Korea it does not yield sugar, whether from climatic or other reasons. Only the grain is used. This cereal is grown most in Kyŭng-geui Province but it also grows commonly in all the provinces, especially in the south. Much less of sorghum is used in Korea than wheat, millet or oats. In the capital it is mixed with rice and eaten but in the country it is often eaten alone, boiled like rice. It is not considered a good food alone, being too laxative. It is also used as an ingredient in various kinds of sauces and in bean cake. It is occasionally used for making pancakes. A great deal of it is used in making candy, for which purpose it is supplemented with honey or with Chinese sugar.

A youth of seventeen was once appointed magistrate of a country district. When he went down to his post he saw from the faces of the yamen runners and other underlings of the office that he was held in contempt because of his youth. He ordered a stalk of sorghum to be brought and in presence of all the staff ordered the chief *ajun* to put it in his sleeve without breaking it. As the sorghum stalk was taller than the *ajun* he said of course that he could not do it. The young man urged him to try but he declined to attempt the impossible. Then the young magistrate said.

"That stalk is not one year old and still you cannot put it in your sleeve. I am seventeen years old and you will find it still harder to put me in you sleeve." From that day he had no more trouble, for the Korean synonym for being "under the thumb" of anyone is to "be in his sleeve."

**Oats.** This cereal also came from northern China many centuries ago and is cultivated mostly in Kang-wŭn, Ham-gyŭng and P'yŭng-an Provinces. It is a supplement to rice, though in the mountainous districts where rice is never seen it forms the staple food of a considerable portion of the people. It is boiled and eaten like rice or it may be mixed with rice. From the stalk of the oats the Koreans make a fine yellow paper called *whang-ji* or "yellow paper." It is very thick and stiff and is calendared much better than the ordinary Korean paper. It is used mostly in the palace, yellow being the imperial color. This paper as all made in Ham-gyŭng Province and specially in the town of Yŏng-heung. A great deal of oats is fed to horses and cattle.

**Millet.** There are six varieties of this cereal in Korea (1) Ch'a-jo or glutinous millet, (2) Me-jo or dry millet, (3) Ki-jang or yellow glutinous millet, (4) Me-gi-jang or yellow dry millet, (5) Ch'ŭng-jŭng-me or green glutinous millet (6) P'i-jo or panicked millet. Of these the first two are the common kinds while the others are comparatively rare. As in China so in Korea this is one of the great supplementary cereals which help the people over times of famine when the rice crop fails. The common name for all kinds of millet in Korea is *cho* which means literally "small" as appears in many Korean expressions, and was applied to millet because of the smallness of the grain. Of the six different kinds



the *ki-jang* is the only one that is indigenous. This cereal is a very important one in Korea being equal to the beans or millet. Rice, beans, millet and barley are the four great cereals for if any one of them were absent there would be some of the people who would starve.

All the varieties of millet are eaten boiled with rice or without except the green millet which is used almost exclusively in making candy. The yellow millet is used frequently in making a sort of dough cake. The paniced millet is the first grain used in the sacrifices at the royal tablet hall, because in China it is the very first of the grains to mature. The green millet is also used in making certain kinds of medicines. The costliest kind of millet is the *ki-jang* which brings in the market about the same price as rice, while the other kinds bring from one third to two thirds that of rice.

## The Seoul Eui-ju Railway.

Our readers will doubtless like to have some particulars in regard to this important work whose inauguration was celebrated on the eighth instant.

The concession for this road was granted in 1896 to a French syndicate called La Compagnie de Fives-Lille. The conditions were the same as those governing the American concession between Seoul and Chemulpo; namely, the Korean Government furnished the land over which the line should run.

For various reasons the French syndicate failed to carry out the project and gave up the concession. Two years ago a new arrangement was made whereby the Korean Government itself undertook to build the road, using French materials and employing French engineers. Yi Yong-ik was made president of the Railroad, Mons. G. Lefevre, formerly Secretary to the French Legation, was made director, M. J. de Lapeyriere was made Chief Engineer and M. E. Bourdaret Assistant Engineer.

It is intended to construct only that part of the line between Seoul and Songdo at present, but as time and funds per-

mit the work will be pushed through to the North-west border where it will doubtless come in touch with the Siberian Railway system.

The terminal station at this end will be outside the West Gate and will be 48.50 meters above sea-level. Passing over the pass A-o-gā at an elevation of 59.50 it descends to the valley of the Han River, 17 m. above tide water. At a distance of 31 kilometers it leaves the valley of the Han and crosses to the valley of the Kyo-ha which it traverses at an elevation of 15 m. At 42 kilometers from Seoul it crosses the Mun-san-po a tributary of the Im-jin River. At 51 kilometers it arrives at the Im-jin River which will be crossed at present by a ferry, passengers and freight being transferred to another train on the opposite side. The road then passes into the valley of Songdo and the terminal station is at an elevation of 40 m.

Seventy-four percent of the line will be straight and 26 percent curves. The sharpest curve will have a radius of 200 m. and only one-fifth of the curves will be as sharp as this.

The maximum grade will be twenty-five thousandths of a meter, or about 21 ft. to the mile.

The entire amount of cuttings and fillings will amount to about 1,000,000 cubic m. of which 190,000 are cuttings and 810,000 fillings; which gives an average of about 13,000 cubic meters per kilometer.

There will be 150 small bridges and culverts and of larger bridges there will be twenty-five. The Im-jin River will require a 500 m. bridge but this will not be built immediately.

The gauge of the road will be 1.43 m. The ties will be 2.50 m. long, .30 m. wide and .125 m. thick.

Between the terminals there will be six regular stations and four flag stations. The stations will all be of brick.

The rolling stock will consist of five locomotives of the Mallet type, five coaches partly first and partly second class, eight third-class coaches, five baggage cars and twenty-five freight cars.

A branch line 1.30 k. m. long will connect the main line with Hāng-ju on the Han River and 1.70 k. m. of side tracks will be placed at intervals.

The total length of track will be 80 kilometers.

The entire cost of construction and equipment is estimated to be 6,470,000 fr. which is an average of 80,000 fr. per kilometer. This amounts to a total of 2,574,982, Japanese yen. and the expense is divided as follows.

Office .....	Yen 150,000
Workshops and tools.....	36,680
Cuttings and fillings.....	381,575
Bridges &c.....	117,273
Transfer at Im-jin River.....	14,530
Masonry.....	111,852
Rails &c.....	954,985
Stations &c.....	53,544
Buildings....	129,470
Telegraph.....	15,645
Wharfs &c.....	95,115
Rolling stock.....	234,784
Sundries .....	114,772
Interest at 6 per cent.....	137,727

The authorities of the road estimate that the road will be able to take in about \$120,000 a year of which \$100,000 will be from passengers. They estimate the running expenses at \$80,000 a year. The *coefficient d'exploitation* will therefore be about 67 percent.

It is believed that this portion of the road will be completed in two years, but of course it depends largely upon the financial condition of the Government. If the fine prospects for a good crop this year prove true it will go far toward rehabilitating the finances of the country.

## Odds and Ends.

### A Snake's Revenge.

About two hundred and eighty years ago a gentleman of good family was appointed prefect of P'ung-dŭk in the western part of Kyŭng-geui Province. A short time after arriving at his post he visited the Kyŏng-ch'ŭn Monastery on Pu-so Mountain.

As he sat there talking with the abbot some of the monks brought a generous bowl of rice and placed it on the ground



in front of a large hole between the foundation stones. Presently an enormous snake thrust its head out of the hole and, after looking this way and that, glided out and began consuming the rice. The prefect was horrified and asked why this was done. They replied that the snake had been there from time immemorial and had been fed from the monastery table.

The prefect insisted that the reptile must be killed, but the monks insisted that it must not. The prefect threatened and finally accomplished his purpose. The snake was snared and dragged from his hole and beheaded. As his head fell there arose a thin blue vapor which floated away toward the city of Seoul.

Within a year the prefect, who had returned to the capital, became the father of a handsome boy whose only peculiarity was a forked tongue. When the father saw this he knew that he had begotten a serpent, but he did not have the courage to destroy the child as his better judgment prompted.

The boy grew up as clever as he was depraved, and by the time he was twenty he was a mouster of wickedness, but the father still could not bring himself to rectify the mistake that he had made. One day a company of hermits arrived from the country and presented him with a bowl of liquid and said "If you drink this you will escape a great misfortune."

"Yes, yes, I know all about it," cried the miserable father "but it seems decreed by heaven that the misfortune should fall upon me and I dare not try to avert it."

The hermits went sadly away, for they knew that by drinking that mystic potion he would have had strength to destroy his evil progeny. The next day the wicked son was condemned to death for treason and the father was compelled to drink poison.

### The Essence of Life.

It may not be generally known to zoologists and natural historians that if a fox lives five hundred years its *life essence*, or Chŭng-geui, (精氣) condenses or crystalizes into a jewel and lies in the mouth of the animal. Neither would Yu Sŭng-yong have known it had it not been for a fortunate conjunction of circumstances. He was a young man of twenty and unmarried, and he lived in the southern town of An-dong.

One day as he sat at study he looked up and saw a most beautiful woman pass by. He was simply fascinated and could not but follow her. This was very bad form indeed but he was hardly accountable for his actions.

The next day his old teacher looked at him sharply and upbraided him, and the young man confessed his fault but plead as his excuse that he had been virtually hypnotized. He told the old man that every time the woman opened her mouth to speak, something like a diamond flashed between her teeth. The old man gave a violent start and exclaimed :

“The next time you see her, get possession of that jewel and swallow it instantly in spite of her tears.”

A few days after, the fair vision passed his window again and as before he felt the mesmeric attraction but he followed this time with a fixed purpose. He overtook the woman and entered into conversation with her as before. During the course of which he said :

“What is that beautiful jewel that I see in your mouth?”

“Ah, I mustn't tell you that,” she answered. He pretended to be much offended.

“Let me see it—just once,” he said. She took it from her mouth and held it up between her thumb and finger. The ungallant Yu snatched it from her and swallowed it in a trice. The woman uttered a piercing scream and fell to the ground writhing as if in agony and weeping in a most heart-rending way. Yu was almost sorry for what he had done but when he saw the form of the woman begin to assume the shape of a white fox his pity was changed to exultation. The fox slunk away up the hill and Yu went home. He had swallowed the *Essence of life* and from that day on he had but to read a book once to master it. One glance at a page and he could repeat every word by heart. After passing before a line of ten thousand men he could tell, the next time he passed, whether the position of any one of them had been changed. It hardly need be said that he became the most famous scholar in the land.

But he had no wife, and it was high time that his bachelor days should be finished. One day as he was on his way to Seoul he stopped at by inn by the Han River. The inn-keeper was a gentleman in reduced circumstances, and that



night his young and clever daughter dreamed that she saw a dragon climbing a willow. In the morning she saw through a hole in the window the young man Yu standing in the yard. She was much taken with his appearance and so far set aside the dictates of modesty as to ask her father what his name was.

"His name is Yu Sŭng-yang, I believe."

"Is it possible" she cried "Why that means *willow becomes dragon*" (柳成龍). Then she told her dream. The father saw the point and approached the young man with a proposition that needed no urging, after he had once accidentally caught a glimpse of the girl's face. And the wedding came off all in good time.

### Editorial Comment.

The actual commencement of work on the Seoul-Eui-ju Railway is an augury of good things to come even though the coming may be long delayed. Judging from past experience, the fact that the Government is financing the scheme is not the best promise of a speedy consummation of the work but we sincerely trust that this may prove a brilliant exception to the general rule and that the work will be pushed to a speedy and successful issue. We have noticed that money is always forthcoming for anything that the Government really wants and all that is necessary is that that the present interest should be sustained. Unfortunately this is not always an easy thing to do; but the presidency of Yi Yong-ik is the best guarantee of a continued and sustained policy. He is a man of affairs and has shown staying qualities which are acknowledged even by those who cannot always approve his methods. As Minister Hayashi pointed out in his address, which we reproduce in this number, it will be a grand day for Korea when there will be a through line from Fusan to Europe. As things now stand there is nothing chimerical in this hope and we fully believe the first quarter of this century will see it an accomplished fact. Apart from commercial considerations the building of these lines will tend to emphasize the political equilibrium of the Korean peninsula.

Granting that this North-western Railway is in line with Russian aspirations we see that both parties to a possible disagreement over the peninsula are giving hostages to fate and increasing the risks of loss in case of defeat. This of course lessens the chances of war and ensures the peaceful exploitation of Korea's resources. What we want to see is the development of Korea *for Korea's sake* and for the elevation of the Korean people. This may seem sentimental and it certainly is true that the struggle for commercial supremacy recognizes no sentimental barriers. It would sweep away the most cherished prejudices without a particle of hesitation. The law of the survival of the fittest is the very spirit of iconoclasm and we cannot really hope that it can be withstood in Korea.



The arrival of M. Kato Esq., formerly Japanese Minister to Korea, as Adviser to the Korean Household Department is an event of great importance. Next to Count Inouye he is the one Japanese that is personally acceptable to His Majesty the Emperor of Korea, and now that so much of the administrative power of the Government is centered in the Household Department the position of adviser is greatly magnified. It may be truly said that all the other departments of the Government are but appendages to the Household, following the constantly centralizing tendency which has been at work for the last five or six years. The *Japan Herald* says this position amounts to the premiership of Korea but we have seen that the Korean Government listens to much advice that it does not follow, sometimes for good and sometimes the reverse. All that can be confidently affirmed is that *if* the Government gives Mr. Kato a chance he can be of inestimable value to Korea. We believe that he will advise in a broad-minded and liberal spirit and that, in spite of inevitable suspicions of prejudice in favor of his nationals and their interests, he will try to do that which will be for Korea's own best welfare.

## News Calendar.

In Yang-ju, in the village of Ma-san-yi, is the ancestral home of one branch of the Cho family. They have lived there for centuries and near it is the ancestral burying place. The house has twenty-five tiled *kan*



and three of thatch. The Cho family is agitated over the fact that some unscrupulous parties have forged a deed for the place and are trying to sell it and they desire to warn all foreigners against purchasing the property.

In answer to the invitation of His Majesty to the different powers to send special envoys, to be present at the celebration of the beginning of the fifth lustrum of the present reign, the Japanese and Chinese Governments have signified their intention of sending special envoys but the more distant powers have decided to delegate their resident ministers respectively as envoys for the occasion.

The name for the new Audience Hall which is being constructed in the palace is *Chung-wha-jun* (中和殿) or "The Hall of Middle Harmony."

The Government in accordance with its previously expressed intention is about to secure from America through the United States Legation a successor to the late Mr. Greathouse, as adviser.

When the examination of candidates for the degree of M. D. in the Government Medical School took place each man was searched for "cribs" and then subjected to six days of continuous examination. It is still in progress.

The Japanese have formed a company for the purpose of engaging in the salt business in Fusan. They have opened a large salt market on Deer Island opposite Fusan.

Mons. E. Clemencet the adviser to the Postal Department has been made the recipient of a decoration of the fourth class by His Majesty. This mark of appreciation is thoroughly well deserved. The conferring of the decoration was accompanied by a banquet at the Postal Bureau.

On the 20th inst. the Postal and Telegraph Bureau sent to the Finance Department (1) Telegraph receipts for the last two years = \$36,674.30; (2) Special income from business of the American and English gold mines = \$2400; (3) Telephone dues = \$23.50.

The contract of H. B. Hulbert of the Imperial Middle School has been renewed for a period of five years.

The Foreign Office has informed the Chinese Minister, that Chinese miners have been digging for gold on Kang-wha without permission and that they must be immediately stopped. These miners have paid no attention to the prefect who has repeatedly warned them off.

The Japanese Minister has asked the Korean Government to set aside a piece of land in Masampo for a Japanese concession. He estimates that about 700,000 *tsubo* will be required.

The annual catch of ling off Northeastern Korea amounted to 160,000,000 which was considered a small catch.

In Ham-hung 107 houses were burned on the 30th of April.

Yun Yong-sun, the Prime Minister, has resigned and Sim Sun-t'äk has been appointed in his place.

An enormous stone is to be brought from the town of Yong-in, eighty *li* to the South of Seoul, and from it will be cut the great stone drum which is to form part of the monument in commemoration of the achievements of the present reign.

Last year's ginseng crop of 10,000 lbs. has been brought to Chemulpo and will be put on the market shortly.

Yi Pom-jin the Korean Minister to Russia was made Ambassador some months ago but the special seal that was cut for him was lost on its way to Europe and so another is to be cut.

Another grave disturbance took place this month in Song-jin, the new port in the Northeast, owing to the violent opposition of the people to the joining of their district with Kil-ju. Several hundred men were killed, among whom was one *chusa* or government clerk.

Under torture one of the suspects lately arrested made sweeping charges against a great number of Government officials including all the Ministers. The man was crazed with pain and his statements were wild, but all the men thus accused will probably be arrested and subjected to searching investigation.

The Annual Meeting of the Methodist Episcopal Mission (North) has just been held in the city of P'yŕng-yang, Bishop Moore presiding. An account of the proceedings must be reserved for our next issue. The Bishop was accompanied to Korea by Mrs. Moore, Miss Marion Moore and Miss Melvin, who comes in the interests of woman's work.

Miss Parsons, the editor of "Woman's Work for Women," published in New York, is in Seoul, a guest of the Presbyterian Mission. She has been travelling around the world visiting the various mission stations of the Presbyterian Church.

Twenty robbers have been captured in Myŕn-chŕn and will go to swell the heavy list of capital punishments that have already taken place this year.

The Buddhistic tendency of the times is shown by the fact that Prince Yi Chŕ-sun, Yi Kŕn-ha, Yi Yong-ik, Min Chong-muk, Yun Chŕng-gu, Om Chun-wuu, Kwŕn Chong-sŕk, Cho Pyŕng-dŕk and An Hak-ju are patrons of the Japanese Buddhist temple in Seoul where daily sacrifices are offered in behalf of the Emperor.

Yu Chi-heung a wealthy man of South Ch'ung-ch'ŕng Province has sold his houses, lands and other property and given the whole sum to the starving people, thus reducing himself to straightened circumstances. The amount of his gifts is about \$40,000. The people there have raised a monument in his honor. Years ago this man's father did the very same thing, since which time the family had accumulated another fortune.

In Paris there have been prepared the plates for printing Korean postage-stamps and also other apparatus for use in Korean post offices at a cost of \$7,600. Stamps have been printed to the selling value of \$367,400 and will be sent to Korea soon.

The Seoul Station of the Presbyterian Mission tendered a reception to Miss Parsons at the home of Miss Doty on the evening of the 27th inst.

Nine tile houses burned near Chong-no on the 24th inst.

In T'a-heung in Ch'ung ch'ung the prefect Yi Eun-ch'ul during the the past winter gave the destitute people \$1,000 and 100 bags of rice.

Some twenty residents near the northern border have petitioned the government to take possession of a large tract of land north of P'ak-tu San between the Tunian and the Ussuri Rivers. This is apparently directly west of Russian territory and can be nothing else than a portion of Manchuria. The petitioners seem to think that though it belonged to China before the late war it is now "anybody's country." The petitioners are sadly behind the times if they suppose that any unclaimed territory in that or any other portion of the world would remain this long without an owner.

The people of Dagelet Island demand the punishment of An Wun-sū for slandering their prefect to the government by claiming that he had collected an unjust tax from the people and "eaten" it.

The regiment of soldiers stationed at P'yūng-yang has arrested the superintendent of trade at Chiunampō and sent him up to Seoul. He is the man who deceived the government in regard to building a palace in P'yūng-yang, mentioned in the April *Review*.

According to an estimate made by the Osaka Steamship Company 555 Japanese came to Korea in the single month of March, which was 353 more than came during the corresponding period last year.

Kim Sūng-heui, a clerk in the post-office in Song-do, is charged with the embezzlement of \$1488.86 of the office funds and orders have been issued for his arrest.

An examination was held at the Police Department on Apr. 28 for the purpose of selecting some new men for the police force. The examination included arithmetic, composition and the raising of an eighty pound weight.

A new tax of 500,000 cash a year has been levied upon the paper manufacturers in the town of T'a-gu.

Yi Yong-ik, the Chief of Police, has issued stringent orders against gambling, opium smoking and counterfeiting and says that any policeman failing to report delinquencies will be severely punished.

In the town of Sūk-sūng, Ch'ung Ch'ūng Province, eighteen people boarded a boat to gather sea-weed but somehow the boat capsized. Twelve of the occupants were saved through the heroic efforts of a man named Sin Kyūng-yūl but the remaining six were drowned.

In Ko-san there is a Korean who has attained his 106th year and the prefect prays that he may be made the recipient of special honors by the government.

On April 30th Yi Yong-ik posted at Chong-no a public notice that a reward of \$1000 would be given for information that would lead to the

conviction of any man who had been counterfeiting on a large scale, and rewards of \$500 and \$200 would be given for the conviction of lesser offenders in the same line.

The prefect of Anak reports that on account of the desperate condition of the people through the famine, a man in that district has given 150 bags of rice to the most needy. This man's name is Yu Un-hyūk.

So far as we can discover the cause of the recent movement on the part of the government against former members of the Independence Club is as follows. Na Hyün-tā, a man who is in sympathy with the pro-Russian party in Seoul, cherished a violent antipathy against the Independence Club and was determined to bring trouble upon former members of that organization. For this purpose he had recourse to a stratagem. Having arranged the details with his friend Ch'oe Hak-nā the two of them invited Kim Kwang-tā to a conference. Kim was formerly an active member of the Club. They told him that the Korean party lately formed in Japan had agents in Seoul and that the Independence Club was going to co-operate with that party in attempting to gain control of affairs in Korea; that Nam Kung-ūk, Yn Hak-ju and Chōng Kyo were the leading spirits in the matter and that if these three men were watched and the government kept informed of their plans the informers would stand to receive substantial rewards from the government. Also that while they (Na, Ch'oe and Kim) kept watch upon the three men mentioned, Yi Ch'an-yūng would be a good man to use as a spy upon Yi Sang-jā who was another interested member of the Independence Club. It would seem that Yi Ch'an-yūng was also behind the scenes with Na and Ch'oe. When Kim Kwang-tā heard this he asserted strongly that it was all false; that there was no such plan on foot and that the whole thing was unreasonable and foolish. He then left the house and went immediately to Nam Kung-ūk and the other two men and informed them of what he had heard and then went to his own home. The next day Yi Ch'an-yūng went to the house of Yi Sang-jā but he was out. His son however was there having already been told of the matter by Kim Kwang-tā. He immediately fired up and upbraided Yi Ch'an-yūng for having come to spy upon his father. Yi Ch'an-yūng, taken off his guard at finding that Yi Sang-jā was informed of the whole matter, was thoroughly frightened and hurried back to Na Hyün-tā and told him what had happened. Na then called Kim Kwang-tā and blamed him for "giving the whole thing away." Kim feeling that he was getting wound up in a net and not knowing what would be sprung upon him next confessed that he had done wrong and then went to the house of Yi Sang-jā and told him to keep still. Coming again to the house of Na he found Na gone but Ch'oe Hak-nā there. Ch'oe treated him so queerly that he was again thrown into a chill and hurried home. Meanwhile Na Hyün-tā had gone to the palace police and told them a long story about how the Korean party in Japan and the Independence Club were arranging matters, and gave a long list of names of those interested in the seditious venture. Among the names were Kim

Kwang-t'ā. Nam Kung-ūk, Chōng Kyo, Yu Hak-ju, Na Su-yūn and many others. Twenty police were immediately detailed to effect the arrest of these men. At first six men were arrested while others, getting wind of the matter went into hiding. Nam Kung-ūk, the editor of the *Whang-sung Sin-mun* was arrested and police were sent to bring Yun Ch'i-ho up to Seoul. Yi Yong-ik, the chief of police, having examined into the matter found it was all a hoax and recommended to the government that the case against these men be dismissed. But the government replied that the subject had not been sufficiently investigated and ordered the retention of the arrested men.

The Japanese minister has requested the government to inform the Koreans on the coast of Chulla and Kyūng-sang Provinces not to be disturbed at the approach of Japanese men-of-war which are about to make surveys in those localities.

The Japanese are about to begin the publication of a semi-monthly magazine in Seoul, in the interests of the three religions namely Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism.

On the eleventh inst an old man was killed by a railroad train in the town of Pu-pyūng.

Sū Sang-jip a wealthy merchant in Chemulpo has been arrested on the charge of sedition. It is supposed that he has had communication with Pak Yūng-hyo in Japan.

The birthday of Buddha which occurred on the 15th inst was observed with considerable show. The recent advances made by the Buddhist element have resulted in committing the government to a policy favorable to this cult.

During the present year the government has received \$292 as license money from the pawnshops of Seoul.

A Korean company in Wonsan has requested permission from the government to establish a shipping company to engage in foreign and coastwise trade. At present their fleet consists of one boat.

The Finance Minister notified all the country prefects that if all current taxes and all arrears are not paid up before May 15, all delinquents will be arrested and cashiered.

The Japanese authorities have requested permission to lay submarine cables to build wireless telegraph stations and to build a telephone line but the government answers that as it is already preparing to do this itself it can not grant franchises to foreigners.

It is interesting to read in the Japanese daily paper published in Seoul a statement made by Mr. Katogi an experienced Japanese electrician regarding the plant of the Seoul Electric Company. Coming from an entirely unbiased source this statement goes very far to show that on the whole Seoul is provided with one of the best electrical plants in the far east. Mr. Katogi says:

"By permission of Mr Bostwick, the Manager, I have examined the power house and all the electric lighting and railway plant of the Seoul Electric Company. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to see such excellent machinery and buildings, so well designed and so substantially



constructed. If there is any criticism to make I should say that the plant is too generously designed for so backward a country as Korea.

"The generating machinery consists of two 120 K. W. rotary converters imported from the well-known Westinghouse Manufacturing Co. of America. The special merit of these machines is that they produce direct current an 550 volts for the use of the street cars and at the same time an alternating current at 385 volts for the use of the lights. Over 2000 volts of alternating current are freely produced for the electric lighting which design is the most advantageous and skillful for a large city like Seoul, where the lights are scattered over such long distances.

"This design of machine is not to be seen in Japan, except one generator at Odawara, which is somewhat similar and yet differs in that a 75 K. W. rotary transformer is used for supplying the current for the street cars of which there are much fewer than in Seoul.

"The boilers are of the Babcock and Wilcox type which are so popular in Japan.

"The cars are arranged for first and second class passengers. Second class seats face outwards, outside the car. This looks like the open car used in summer in America and is rather dangerous for women when running fast.

"The conductors, like the employees of the government railways in Japan, are not sufficiently polite to the passengers.

"At the present time there are something over 1400 incandescent lights in use besides the arc lights which, as any one may see, are very brilliant." Such is the statement of an expert.

We have not heard of any accidents to women caused by the seats on the cars facing outward nor, after considerable experience, have we seen any particular impoliteness on the part of the employees, considering the fact that very frequently people board the cars without tickets and intending to ride only until they are turned off. The only possible criticism that suggests itself to us is that there should be more little culverts or troughs under the tracks to let the water which lies in the streets pass through and find the ditch. This would help greatly to keep the streets free from mud. There is no question that the Electric Company is doing more than any other organization in a material way to make life worth living in Seoul. It is a pleasure to note that their building, which was so badly injured by fire, is nearly ready for occupancy again.

The eighth of May witnessed a noteworthy event in Seoul, the ceremony which inaugurated the beginning of work on the Seoul Euiju Railway, or at least that portion of it lying between Seoul and Songdo the former capital of Korea fifty-three miles distant.

The exercises took place at the former Independence Club house which was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The French Admiral with his staff was present accompanied by a marine band which discoursed some charming music. Addresses were made by the French Minister M. Colliu de Plancy, the Japanese Minister G. Hayashi, Esq., and by Yi Young-ik the president of the Railway.

A banquet was spread for the guests beneath an ample awning and a Korean *kwang-da* or acrobat performed on a tight rope for the delectation of the assembled populace. The addresses of the French and Japanese Ministers were as follows.

#### THE ADDRESS OF THE FRENCH MINISTER.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

The opening of the North-West Railway, to the inauguration of which we have been invited, marks, as Mr. Yi Yong Ik said, an important date in the annals of Korea. It is not necessary for me to point out again all the advantages connected with such an enterprise, as long as it will be steadily undertaken, and I wish to see in the initiative taken by the Imperial Government the promise of terminating the works happily, so as to unite as soon as possible the Capital of the Empire to Europe, on one side, thanks to the Trans-Siberian railway of which the regular traffic is only a question of some few days, and on the other side to Japan by the Fusan line. The railway which will then cross the Peninsula will become in the near future one of the most important lines of the Far East and it will be an inexhaustible boon to the population.

I therefore ask you to join me in expressing our warmest wishes in favour of the new line and of its prosperity. I specially offer to the Director-General and to the officials of the railway my best wishes of success. But allow me not to forget the Director and the French engineers, upon whom the task of the survey and the construction of the line is incumbent. After a period of long and tedious exertions, it is but just that on this occasion when they are starting their work we should offer them our thanks, since their laborious efforts have as a result the ceremony which has called us together today.

#### THE ADDRESS OF THE JAPANESE MINISTER.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen :—

It gives me great pleasure to say a few words of congratulation upon the inauguration of the work of the railway between Seoul and Songdo, and I speak on behalf of my colleagues as well, who with myself are present by the kind invitation of the President to take part in celebrating this occasion, which will be remembered as a memorable day in the history of Korea. I congratulate the wisdom of His Majesty the Emperor of Korea and His Majesty's Ministers in deciding to construct this railway which will eventually be prolonged to Wiju, a frontier town on the Yalu, and which will form, together with the Seoul-Fusan Railway, the main trunk line of the country. The railway when completed will traverse districts known for their agricultural and mineral resources and will connect with Seoul two old capitals, Songdo and Pingyang, comparatively populous and rich towns. The benefit of this railway is therefore beyond



doubt. I also congratulate the Korean Government upon its courage in expecting to construct this railway with their own money. Considering however the financial condition of the country it is not an easy thing to undertake this task which will require some considerable amount of money. But I may venture to say that the Korean Government will be able to spare four or five hundred thousand yen a year, or even more, for the purpose, if their finances are managed cautiously and wisely. Happily we find a vigorous hand in the President of this railway, Mr. Yi Yong Ik, who will face any difficulty, if there is any, in completing this great work, and I may add that Mr. Yi is best situated for financing the construction of this railway because he has himself financial control over the income of the Imperial Household which may be set aside for the purpose of this railway. As to the engineering of the work I rejoice to see that the Korean Government have secured very able assistance and support in the persons of able and experienced French engineers. If their advice be followed there is little doubt that the railway will be completed in a way both scientific and practical. I may also congratulate them upon being the engineers of the first Korean railway. We sincerely wish every success to this undertaking."

The Department of Agriculture, &c. is intending to make a thorough examination of the gold diggings in Kang-wŭn Province and to give licenses to thirty miners to work in each of eight diggings, the annual fee being five dollars for each miner.

One day last month sixty-six criminals were executed, five of whom were women. The great majority of them were in the prisons in Seoul. Some were thieves, some counterfeiters and some murderers.

In Ch'ung-yang in South Ch'ŭng-ch'ŭng Province, Yi Seung-jo has given 40,000,000 cash for the relief of the famine sufferers.

The people of Ko-yang near Seoul have asked for the loan of 2,000 bags of Annam rice, to be paid back next fall.

It is with the keenest regret that we have to record the death by typhus fever of Miss Lillian Harris, M. D. in P'yŭng-yang. She was one of the most energetic and devoted missionaries that has ever come to Korea and her death is a sad loss not only to her friends, of whom there were many, but also to the work. She was about to take her first furlough to America.

Yi Yong-jik, who was banished for three years, has been pardoned and has been made special adviser to the Law Department.

About the end of April the Japanese Minister intimated to the Government that Japan would ask Korea to pay an indemnity on account of Japanese killed in Korea since 1894. It is to be hoped that both the debit and the credit sides of the account will receive attention.

During the last three years the Government tax on rice boats and ferry-boats has amounted to \$58,997.55. Of this \$14286.32 has been spent in collecting the tax and the remainder goes into the national exchequer.

The Famine Relief Commission has recommended that the taxes of Hŏ-ju, Whang-ju and P'yŭng-san in Whang-hŏ Province be remitted for the year and that rice be sent to relieve the distress there.

The Governor of South Cholla Province reports that 758 houses have been deserted because of the famine and that the number of starving people is 2376. Local benefactions have helped to alleviate the distress but he asks that the government tax be used to help these people.

The number of people in the Seoul prisons now numbers 480.

The Belgian Consul has recommended to the Government to send delegates to the medical convention that is to be held in Kyoto, Japan, in the ninth moon that they may learn what steps it is necessary to take to stamp out that most dreaded of all Korean diseases, typhus.

The *New York Times* of Jan. 26 contains the following notice that will be of interest to the friends of Mr. E. V. Morgan, formerly Secretary of Legation in Seoul.

Edwin V. Morgan, Second Secretary of Embassy in St. Petersburg, has been selected to fill the vacancy in the State Department caused by the death of Thomas Kellar. Mr. Morgan is a native of New York and has had considerable experience. The place he assumes is that of confidential clerk and secretary to the Third Assistant Secretary, Pierce. A successor to the office of Second Secretary at St. Petersburg has been selected but his name has not been made public.

We congratulate Mr. Morgan upon this promotion. We understand that this is a new office.

The Belgian Representative has suggested that Korea send a representative to Brussels to attend a great medical convention to be held there during the first week of September, with a special view to studying the means for combating the typhus.

The Japanese Minister has asked the Korean Government whether it desires to make an exhibit at the Industrial Exhibition to be held in Osaka.

In connection with the recent excitement about the rumored rise of the Independence Club it is interesting to learn that certain incriminating documents were put in evidence bearing the private seal of Nam Kung-ük, the able Editor of the *Whang-sung Sin-mun*. When these were shown him he immediately denounced the seal a forgery and challenged a comparison between the impressions on these documents and that made by the private seal which he carried on his person. The comparison showed conclusively that a false seal had been made with malicious intent to implicate him. This changed the whole aspect of the affair, and Yn Tong-geun, who was the perpetrator of the outrage, is to be executed.

The seals of all the heads of departments are on record in the palace, but to prevent possible trouble of the above nature the Government has ordered all the vice-ministers to put their seals also on record.

Koreans know a good thing when they see it. Sim Hu-t'äk the prefect of S'ung-jin, the new open port in the north-east, being superseded, set out to return to Seoul but the people blocked the road and prevented his departure saying that he was too good a prefect to lose. He went back to his office but at night made his escape by a less frequented road and hastened on his way to Wonsan, but before he reached that place

the people overtook him and carried him back in triumph. They then telegraphed to Seoul and urged that they could not think of letting such a man go and begged that he be reinstated.

The defalcation of the clerk in the post-office in Song-do has led to a general investigation which reveals the startling fact that throughout the provinces there is not a single office where there is not a shortage ranging from \$100 to \$2000.

Seven thousand dollars have been appropriated for the purpose of connecting the Korean telegraph line with the Russian line at Mukden.

Sim Sang-hun Minister of Finance has tendered his resignation on the ground that the treasury is empty, the prefects do not send up the Government revenue and an army of officials is clamoring for pay and cannot get it.

The material progress of Korea is mirrored in the recent formation of a Laundry Company which proposes to do business outside the North-east Gate. They have applied to the Government for a charter and offer to pay an annual license of \$200.

The Japanese paper in Chennulpo announces the arrival of a Japanese boat from north China bringing a load of counterfeit nickels, manufactured in that country.

Three robbers who have been carrying on active operations in Poch'ŏn have been captured and brought to Seoul.

The project of building a western palace at P'yŏng-yang was given up once because of lack of funds but it was taken up again and Min Yong-ch'ŏl has been sent to that city with \$100,000 to begin the work. The total cost will be about \$600,000 and it is said the balance will be collected from the province of P'yŏng-yang.

The stone and timber which is being so lavishly prepared in the street beside the palace is being used to construct a great Audience Hall. Some of the timbers are truly magnificent.

Some students of the Normal School who were being examined at the Educational Office with a view to selecting some of them for service in the country were detected in cheating and they were all refused diplomas.

M. Kato, Esq. who is to become Adviser to the Household Department arrived in Seoul on the eighth of May.

A treaty has been arranged between Korea and Denmark. For the time being, His Excellency A. Pavloff will assume the duties of Danish Minister to Korea.

Spurred on by the offer of reward the police have been very active in the search for counterfeiters. One was arrested in Kwa-ch'ŏn and he and his machine were brought to Seoul; his machine was smashed at Chong-no and he will doubtless be smashed somewhere else. Meanwhile the policeman who effected the capture is richer by \$200—his reward.

Sixty-nine houses were destroyed by fire in Ou-yang on the 14th of April. No lives were lost.

Yi Yong-ik the Chief of Police has driven out of Seoul all the countrymen who are here merely on pleasure bent.

## Bible Society Sunday.

The first Sabbath in May has come to be the Bible Sunday in Korea. The fourth of this month was thus observed, not only in the capital but throughout the country. It is well to keep in mind the fact that the Bible societies are the pioneers of Protestant Christian work in Korea. The American Bible Society and the National Bible Society of Scotland entered from Japan, the British and Foreign Bible Society by way of Eui-ju, and this even before the advent of Protestant missionaries in 1884.

The first committee on the translation of the Bible was appointed in June 1890; in July 1900 the first complete New Testament prepared in Korea was published. Up to 1895 the work was superintended by agents of the different societies, residing in China or Japan, but that year marked a forward step when the British and Foreign Bible Society appointed its first resident agent in Korea in the person of Mr. Alex. Kennure to whom is due much of the success of the work of publication.

On the fourth of this month all the native churches called attention to the claims of the Bible to their faith and benevolence. The offerings showed a considerable advance over those of previous years. At the Union Church special services were held, presided over by Rev. H. O. T. Burkwall the acting agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Mr. Burkwall's address was a stirring one and we wish that we had space to print it in full. After dwelling upon the fact that the "giving of the Word" is the power which brings about unity among believers he says:

"Amidst all diversity the place of the Scriptures in preparing the way of the Lord is the topic upon which all followers of Jesus are agreed. We have great cause for rejoicing for marked success in Bible work during the past year. By an act of faith, men who loved the Lord and His Word formed the first of those great societies which have for their object the giving of the Gospel to every creature in his own mother tongue. And by faith the work has gone on. When the British and Foreign Bible Society was founded the Baptist Missionary Society had already been in existence twelve years, the London Missionary Society nine years and the Church Missionary Society and the Religious Tract Society five years; and some of the strongest men in each of these organizations gave their hearty encouragement to the new venture. Garville Sharp, Wm. Wilberforce, Zachary Macaulay, are names found in the list of its founders. From the first it proved to be a power to draw together members of different religious denominations. But this is still more marked to-day when we look at the noble army of translators scattered over the continents of America, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Islands of the Sea.

"The aim of the Society is not merely to provide a Bible in each language but to secure *one* Bible in each language and it is no small gain to escape sectarian translations in heathen lands. Within the last century this noble band of translators have made two hundred and nineteen languages the vehicles for conveying divine knowledge, taking the languages directly from the lips of the people speaking them. In all these languages the Gospel was the first book ever printed."

"Of the 478 ancient and modern translations of the Bible 456 have been made by missionaries. The field is the world, and it is a broad field, and success in any one part of it brings encouragement to the laborers in other parts. The Bible Society during the past two years has made some marked advances. Russia ever hostile to missionaries of other than the Greek Church, has shown much kindness to Bible colporteurs. Railways and steamships give free passage or reduced rates to colporteurs and to Bible shipments. Bookstalls at large railway stations carry stocks of Scriptures and are ordered by the authorities to look well to their sale. Army officers encourage sales among the soldiers. In Argentina and Costa Rica special privileges have also been granted.

"The Bible has again found entrance to the Soudan from which it was excluded for thirty years or more until the battle of Omdurman."

"The call for the Thibetan Scriptures is on the increase and thousands of copies find their way annually to that forbidden land."

"In China the issues of the Scriptures have increased wonderfully. During the first eight days of this year 150,000 copies were ordered from the B. & F. Bible Society office alone, and the sales for the first quarter were 236,000 copies."

After a stirring peroration the speaker gave place to Rev. Jas. S. Gale who followed with a vigorous defense of the Scriptures as the Word of God, powerful in these days of doubt and hypercriticism to bring salvation to the penitent and humble believer. The annual offering was then received, which showed a handsome advance on previous donations.

The following table shows the circulation of the Scripture in Korea for 1901.

**Bible Circulation in Korea, 1901.**

MEDIUM.	Bible and Old Test.	New Testament	Portions	Total
Depot Sales.....	22	659	1313	1994
Colportage Sales.....	38	3190	9384	12612
Bible Women Sales.....		77	578	655
Free Grants.....	3	95	1435	1520
Total	63	4021	12730	16814



## KOREAN HISTORY.

All was instantly in turmoil; the king had all his valuables packed and was ready to flee at a moment's warning. But lo! another messenger followed hard upon the heels of the first announcing that Gen. Yi had turned the tide of battle and had wrested victory from the teeth of the enemy.

The good will of the Japanese government was shown when a prefect in western Japan sent sixty soldiers under the command of a monk, Sin Hong, to aid in the putting down of the corsairs. They made some attempts to check their lawless countrymen but soon found that they had undertaken more than they had bargained for, and so returned to Japan. As the pirates were ravaging the west coast as far north as P'yŭng-yang, the king sent against them Generals Na Se and Sim Tŭk-pu who had been successful before. By the use of fire-arrows they succeeded in burning several of the enemy's boats at Chin-p'o and of course had the fellows at their mercy, for they had no means of escape.

Late in the autumn of 1379 the Japanese were again in dangerous proximity to the capital and the king wanted to move to a safer place. The geomancers' book of prophecies indicated Puk-so San as "A narrow place and good for a king to live in," but the courtiers opposed it, saying that there was no large river flowing near by, on which the government rice could be brought by boat to the capital. So it was given up.

There was a Mongol general named Ko-ga-no who had become independent of the main body of the Mongols and had set up a separate government on his own responsibility in Liao-tung. He was wavering between natural ties on the one hand, which bound him to the Mongols, and the dictates of common sense on the other, which indicated the rising fortunes of the Ming. He chose a middle course by com-

ing with his 40,000 men and asking the privilege of joining Koryū. The records do not say whether permission was given or not, but we may easily believe it was.

In 1380 the Japanese government sent 180 soldiers under the command of Gen. Pak Kū-sa to aid in driving the pirates out of Koryū. In the midst of these dangers from freebooters, jealousy was undermining the government at Song-do. Gen. Yi T'ā-jo had a friend named Gen. Yaug Pāk-yŭn who now under false charges, enviously made by officials near the king, was banished and then killed. It was wonderful that the fame of Gen. Yi did not bring about his murder.

The Ming emperor thought, and rightly, that the king was a very fickle individual and sent a letter asking him why it was that he had no settled policy but did everything as the impulse of the moment led. The king's reply is not recorded but that he did not take to heart the admonitions of the emperor is quite evident, for he plunged into greater excesses than ever. His ill-timed hunting expeditions, his drunkenness and debauchery were the scandal of the country. The people thought he ought to be hunting Japanese pirates rather than wild boar and deer. Even while the Japanese were ravaging Ch'ung-ch'ŭng Province the king was trampling down the people's rice-fields in the pursuit of game. He stole the people's cattle and horses whenever he needed them and if he chanced to see a good looking girl anywhere he took means to possess himself of her person by fair means or foul. He was indeed the son of Sin-dop both by blood and by disposition.

This year the ravages of the freebooters exceeded anything that had been known before. The southern provinces were honeycombed by them. Generals Pā Keuk-yŭn and Chōng Chi were sent against them but without result. At last the Japanese laughingly asserted that they soon would be in the city of Song-do. They might have gone there if Gen. Yi had not been sent in person to direct the campaign against them. Hastening south he rallied around him all the available troops and came to Un-bong in Chŭl-la province. He ascended Chōng San which lay six miles from the camp of the enemy. From this point he perceived that there were two



roads leading to this camp; one broad and easy and the other narrow and rough. With great sagacity he judged that the Japanese would take the narrow road, hoping to make a counter march on him. So he sent a considerable force by the broad road but selected a band of trusty men to form an ambush on the narrow one. The Japanese acted precisely as he had foreseen. When they learned that the Koryū army was approaching they hastened away by the narrow road and so fell into the ambush, where they were severely handled. Fifty of their number were left dead. The remainder sought safety in the mountains but were soon brought to bay. The whole Koryū army was called up and the attack upon the Japanese position was begun. It was necessary to attack up a steep incline and Gen. Yi had two horses shot out from under him, and an arrow pierced his leg; but he drew it out and continued the fight. Among the enemy was a man stronger and larger than the rest. He stood spear in hand and danced about, urging on his comrades. He was encased in armor and on his head was a copper helmet. There was no opening for an arrow to enter; so Gen. Yi said to his lieutenant, Yi Tu-ran, "Make ready an arrow and when I strike off his helmet do you aim at his face." Gen. Yi took careful aim and struck off the man's helmet and swift behind his arrow flew that of his lieutenant which laid the fellow low. This demoralized the enemy and they were soon hewn down. It is said that for days the stream near by ran red with blood. As the result of this victory 1600 horses were taken and a large amount of spoil, including implements of war.

When the victorious general returned to Song-do he was given a triumphal entry and fifty ounces of gold and other gifts were distributed among the generals who assisted him. It is said that, from that time on, whenever the news came that a Japanese band had disembarked on the southern coast the first word that was spoken was, "Where is Gen. Yi T'ā-jo?"

The long-suffering emperor at last tired of the erratic course of the Koryū king and decided to bring a little pressure to bear upon him in order to bring him to his senses. He ordered the king to send him each year a thousand horses, a hundred pounds of gold, five thousand ounces of silver and

five thousand pieces of cotton cloth. This was beyond the means of the king, but he succeeded in sending three hundred ounces of gold, a thousand ounces of silver, four hundred and fifty horses and four thousand five hundred pieces of cotton. This large amount of tribute was delivered into the hands of the governor of Liao-tung to be sent to the imperial court, but the governor declared that as the tax was a penal one and not merely for tribute he could not accept less than the full amount required. So he drove the envoy away.

In 1382 the government adopted a new policy in the matter of coast defense. In all the larger seaport towns generals were stationed in charge of considerable bodies of troops and in the smaller towns garrisons of proportional strength. The constant coming and going of these troops was a terrible drain upon the resources of the people but there was no help for it. The piratical raids of the Japanese had now become so frequent that no attempt was made to keep a record of them. It would have been easier for the people to bear had the king showed any of the characteristics of manhood, but his feasts and revels saw no abatement. Frequently he was so intoxicated that he fell from his horse while hunting. He peopled the palace with dancing-girls and it may be said of him as it was of Nero that he "fiddled while Rome was burning." As the king rode forth to hunt with falcon on wrist the eunuchs rode behind him singing ribald Mongol songs. When other pleasures cloyed he invented a sort of mock battle in which stones were used as missiles. It is believed by many that this was the beginning of the popular "stone-fight," which is such a unique custom of Korea today. Once he amused himself by pretending that he was going to bury one of his officials alive behind the palace, and he hugely enjoyed the poor fellow's shrieks and struggles. He made this same official put up his hat as a target, than which hardly anything could be a greater disgrace, for the hat in Korea is the badge of citizenship and is held in such esteem that no one will attend to the duties of nature without taking off his hat and laying it aside.

Being hard pressed by the emperor in the matter of tribute it is said that in 1383 he sent to the Ming court a hundred pounds of gold, ten thousand ounces of silver, ten thousand

pieces of linen and a thousand horses. The records say the emperor refused to take it, for it fell short of his demands. It is probable that this means not that it was sent back but that the emperor refused to give a receipt in full of all demands.

In this same year, 1383, the capital was again moved to Han-yang. The reasons alleged were that so many misfortunes overtook the dynasty that it seemed as if the site of the capital must be unpropitious. It was also said that wild animals entered the city, which was a bad sign. The water in the wells had boiled, fish fought with each other, and a number of other fictions were invented, all of which made it necessary to move the capital. It was effected, however, in the face of great opposition. Meanwhile the Japanese were working their will in the south, for Gen. Yi was in the north repelling an attack by the Yŭ-jin forces.

In spite of the sending of tribute to the Ming court, Koryŭ was on good terms with the Mongols. In 1384 the Mongol chief Nap-t'ap-chul came with gifts to the king and frequent envoys were exchanged. Koryŭ was neither hot nor cold but lukewarm and for this reason it was that the Mings finally spewed her out of their mouth. The capricious king now moved back to Song-do and the courtiers were put to no end of trouble and expense. When they returned to Song-do with the king they burned all their houses in Han-yang so as to make it impossible to return.

One of the most disgraceful acts of this king was his attempt to possess himself of his father's wife, or concubine. Meeting her one day he commented on her beauty and said she was more beautiful than any of his wives. He tried to force his way into her apartments at night but in some way his plan was frustrated. When one of the courtiers took him to task for his irregularities he tried to shoot him through with an arrow.

Gen. Yi t'ā-jo was having a lively time in the north with the Yŭ-jin people. Their general was Ho-bal-do. His helmet was four pounds in weight. He wore a suit of red armor and he rode a black horse. Riding forth from the ranks he shouted insulting words to Gen. Yi and dared him to single combat. The latter accepted the gage and soon the two were

at work striking blows that no ordinary man could withstand. Neither could gain the advantage until by a lucky chance the horse of Gen. Ho stumbled, and before the rider could recover himself Gen. Yi had an arrow in his neck. But the helmet saved him from a serious wound. Then Gen. Yi shot his horse under him. At sight of this Gen. Ho's soldiers rushed up, as did also those of Gen. Yi, and the fight became general. The result was an overwhelming victory for Koryŭ. These flattering statements about the founder of the present dynasty are probably, in many cases, the result of hero-worship but the reader has the privilege of discounting them at discretion.

The Ming court knew all about Koryŭ's coquetting with the Mongols and sent a severe letter warning her that the consequences of this would be disastrous. The king was frightened and sent an envoy in haste to the Ming court to "make it right," but the emperor cast him into prison and sent demanding five years' tribute at once. We may well believe that this demand was not complied with.

That there were two opinions in Japan as regards Koryŭ is shown by the fact that immediately after that government sent back 200 Koryŭ citizens, who had been carried away captive, a sanguinary expedition landed on the coast of Kang-wŭn Province near the town of Kang-neung and ravaged right away north as far as Nang-ch' n.

The king, in partial compliance with the emperor's demands sent, in the spring of 1385, 2000 horses to China. It was the faithful Chŏng Mong-ju who accompanied this peace offering, and when he arrived in Nanking the emperor saw by the date of his commission that he had come in extreme haste. This mollified his resentment to such an extent that he gave the envoy a favorable hearing and that careful and judicious man made such good use of the opportunity that friendly intercourse was again established between China and her wayward vassal.

The state of affairs in Koryŭ was now beyond description. The *kwaga*, a literary degree of some importance, was frequently conferred upon infants still in their mothers' arms. The people, with fine sarcasm, called this the "Pink Baby-powder Degree." The king was struggling to pay up

his arrears of tribute, but he could not secure the requisite number of horses. In lieu of these he sent large quantities of silver and cloth. The pendulum had now swung to the other extreme and a Mongol envoy was denied audience with the king.

In 1386, the year following the above events, the Ming emperor formally recognized the king of Koryŏ. This event was hailed with the greatest delight by the court. But it did not have the effect of awakening the king to the dignity of his position for he gave freer rein to his passions than ever. He seized the daughter of one of his officials and made her his concubine although she was already affianced to another. This is a most grave offense in the east, for a girl affianced is considered already the same as married.

It is a relief to turn from this picture and see what Gen. Yi was doing to free his country from Japanese pirates. He was in the northeast when a band of these men landed in his vicinity, near the mouth of the Tu-man River. When they found that Gen. Yi was near by they wanted to make their escape but he forced them into a position where they either had to fight or surrender. He informed them that immediate surrender was the only thing that could save them. They agreed to his terms but when they had thus been thrown off their guard he fell upon them and the slaughter was so great that it is said the plain was filled with the dead bodies. The records make no attempt to conceal or palliate this act of bad faith on the part of this great general. It was not an age when nice distinctions were made. The Japanese were not waging a regular warfare against the Koryŏ government but were killing helpless women and children and burning their houses. Their one aim was plunder and this put them outside the pale of whatever code of military honor prevailed.

The king's vagaries now took a new turn. Like Haroun al Raschid he went forth at night and roamed the streets in disguise accompanied by concubines and eunuchs. Crimes that cannot be described and which would have brought instant death upon a common citizen were committed with impunity. No man's honor was safe. Not only so, but other evil-minded people masquerading at night and in disguise committed like indescribable outrages under the cover



of the king's name. In his hunting expeditions the king rode forth preceded by a host of harlots and concubines dressed in male attire and wherever he went the people lost their horses and cattle and whatever else the royal escort took a fancy to.

The continual trouble in Quelpart arising out of the horse-breeding business grew so annoying that the king finally sent Gen. Yi Hāng with instructions to bring away every horse and to do away entirely with the business. This was done and from that day Quelpart had peace.

Kim Yu the envoy to Nanking was closely questioned by the emperor as to the cause of the late king's death and he told that potentate that it was done by Yi In-im, which indeed was true; but to the question as to whose son the king might be he returned an evasive answer. As a result of his frankness in telling who murdered the former king he was banished, for Yi In-im was all-powerful at court. The sentence of banishment meant death for he was sent to a distant place of banishment as such a break-neck pace that no man could live through it. He died of fatigue on the way as was intended. This Yi In-im and his following held the reins of power at the capital and they sold all offices and took bribes from all criminals. They thus succeeded in defeating the ends of justice and the people "gnashed their teeth" at him. He caused the death of so many good men that he earned the popular soubriquet of "Old Cat."

The year 1387 was signalized by a closer union between Koryū and her suzerain. The Ming emperor sent 5000 pieces of silk to purchase horses but when the animals arrived at his capital they were such a sorry lot that he rejected them and charged the king with bad faith. The Koryū officials all adopted the dress and the manners of the Ming court. This they had done before but had dropped them again when they turned back to the Mongols. From that time on until the present day the clothes of the Korean have followed the fashions of the Ming dynasty.

## Chapter XIII.

King determines to invade Liao-tung...why unwise...the emperor's letter and the answer...preparations...Gen. Yi's argument...royal threat...Gen. Yi marches northward... the troops appealed to...the Rubicon of Korea...an omen...advance toward Songdo...the capital in Gen. Yi's hands...popular song...Gen. Yi's demands .. attempted assassination...king banished...a new king...reforms...the "Red Grave"...envoy to China ...Koryū takes the offensive against the Japanese ...the emperor's offer. ...a real Wang upon the throne...the banished kings executed...unsuccessful plot...Gen. Yi opposes the Buddhists...capital moved to Han-yang ...people desire Gen. Yi to be made king...he is reluctant .. his son active...Chōng Mong-ju assassinated...all enemies silenced...the king's oath...the king abdicates in favor of Gen. Yi T'ā-jo.

Koryū was now whirling in the outer circles of the maelstrom that was destined to engulf her. So long as the king revelled and hunted only and did not interfere with outside affairs he was endured as an necessary evil but now in the opening of the year 1388 he determined upon an invasion of Liao-tung, a plan so utterly foolhardy as to become the laughing-stock of reasonable men. It was an insane idea. The constant inroads of the Japanese demanded the presence of all the government troops, for the sending of any of them out of the country would be the signal for the Japanese to pour in afresh and with impunity. In the second place the king could not hope to cope with the great Ming power that had just arisen and was now in the first blush of its power. The kingdom of Koryū was essentially bound to the Mongols and she pursued her destiny to the bitter end. In the third place the Ming power had now obtained a firm foothold in Liao-tung and an invasion there would look much like a plan to finally attack that empire itself. In the fourth place the finances of the country were utterly disorganised and the unusual taxes that would be required to carry out the plan would take away all popular enthusiasm for it and desertions would decimate the army. But in spite of all these drawbacks the stubborn king held to his point and as a preliminary measure

built a wall about Han-yang where he sent all the women and children for safety. By this act he acknowledged the extreme hazard of the venture. It is not unlikely that he was so tired of all other forms of amusement that he decided to plunge into war in order to make sport for himself.

The emperor seems to have been aware of the plan for he now sent an envoy to announce to the Koryŭ court that "All land north of Ch'ül-lyŭng belongs to the Mongols, and I am about to erect a palisade fence between you and them." When this envoy arrived at Song-do the king feigned illness and would not see him. A letter was sent in reply saying "We own beyond the Ch'ül-lyŭng as far as Sang-sŭng, so we trust it will please you not to erect a barrier there." He then called in all the troops from the provinces in preparation for the invasion. His ostensible reason was a great hunting expedition in P'yŭng-an Province for he knew the people would rise in revolt if they knew the real purpose. The Japanese were wasting the south, the people were fainting under new exactions to cover the expense of the repairs at Han-yang and it is said the very planting of crops was dispensed with, so disheartened were the people.

Having made Ch'oe Yŭng general-in-chief of the expedition, the king accompanied the army north to Pong-ju, now Pong-san. Gen. Ch'oe never divulged the fact that this was an army of invasion but told all the troops that they must be strong and brave and ready for any work that might be given them to do. Gen. Yi T'ā-jo was made lieutenant-general in connection with Gen. Ch'oe. He made a powerful plea against the war and the main points of his argument are preserved to us. His objections were (1) It is bad for a small country to attack a powerful one. (2) It is bad to make a campaign in summer when the heavy rains flood the country, rendering the transporting of troops almost impossible and decimating them with disease. (3) It is bad to drain off all the soldiers from the country when the Japanese are so constant in their ravages. (4) The heat and moisture of summer will spoil the bows and make them break easily. To all these objections the king replied that having come thus far the plan must be carried out. Gen. Yi hazarded his neck by demurring; still asserting that it would

mean the overthrow of the kingdom. The king in rage exclaimed "The next man that advises against this war will lose his head." This was an end of the debate and as the council of war dispersed the officers saw Gen. Yi weeping, and to their questions he answered "It means the destruction of Koryŭ."

The Yalu was quickly bridged and Gen. Yi in company with one other general started north from P'yŭng-yang with 38,600 troops, 21,000 of whom were mounted. At the same time the king discarded the Ming calendar, dress and coiffure. The Mongol clothes were again adopted and the hair cut. The Japanese knowing that the troops had gone north, entered the open door thus invitingly left ajar and seized forty districts.

But we must follow the fortunes of the expedition that was to attack the empire of the Mings. When Gen. Yi arrived at the Yalu his plans were not laid as to what he should do. For one thing, he intended to make no invasion of China. So he crossed over to Wi-ha island, in the mouth of the Yalu, and there made his camp. Hundreds of his troops deserted and went back home. Some of these the king siezed and beheaded; but it did not stop the defection. From that island a general, Hong In-ju, made a dash into Liao-tung territory and was highly complimented by the king in consequence. But Gen. Yi remained impassive. He sent a letter to the king imploring him to listen to reason and recall the army, urging history, the flooded condition of the country and the Japanese reasons for it. But the king was stubborn. Rumor said that Gen. Yi had fled but when another general was sent to ascertain whether this were true or false he was found at his post. The two generals wept together over the hopeless condition of affairs. At last they summoned the soldiers. "If we stay here we will all be swept away by the rsiing flood. The king will not listen to reason. What can we do to prevent the destruction of all the people of Koryŭ? Shall we go back to P'yŭng-yang, depose the general-in-chief, Ch'oe, who urges on this unholy war against the Mings?" The soldiers shouted out acclamations of glad assent. Nothing could please them better.

As Gen. Yi T'ä-jo mounted his white steed and with his

red bow and white arrows stood motionless upon a mound of earth watching his soldiers recross the Yalu to the Koryŭ side against the mandate of their king and his, we see a new Caesar watching his army cross the Rubicon, an army as passionately devoted to their leader as the Roman legions ever were to Caesar. And Caesar suffers in the comparison, for he went back not to restore the integrity of the state and prevent the waste of human life, but rather to carry out to its tragic end a personal ambition. We have seen how once and again Yi T'ā-jo had plead with the king and had risked even his life to prevent this monumental folly; and we shall see how he used his power not for personal ends but with loyalty to his king, until circumstances thrust him upon the throne.

The records say that no sooner had Gen. Yi followed his army across the stream than a mighty wave, fed by mountain streams, came rolling down the valley and swept clean over the island he had just left. The people looked upon this as an omen and a sign of heaven's favor, and they made a song whose refrain runs "The son of wood will become king." This refers to the Chinese character for Gen. Yi's name. It is the union of the two characters "wood" and "son." The whole army then took up its march toward Song-do. A magistrate in the north sent a hasty message to the king saying that the army was in full march back toward the capital. The king was at this time in Song-ch'ŭn, north of P'yŭng-yang. He knew many of the generals were opposed to the war and thought that they would obey him better if he were near by, and so had come thus for north.

Hearing this startling news he immediately dispatched Gen. Ch'oe Yu-gyŭng with whatever force he had, to oppose the march of the rebellious Gen. Yi. The associate of the latter urged him to push forward with all speed and seize the person of the king, but he was no traitor, and he replied "If we hurry forward and encounter our countrymen many will fall. If anyone lays a finger on the king I will have no mercy on him. If a single citizen of Koryŭ is injured in any way I will never forgive the culprit." So Gen. Yi came southward slowly, hunting along the way in order to give the king time to get back to Song-do in a leisurely manner as becomes a king. At last the king arrived at his capital and the re-



calcitrant army came following slowly. The people along the way hailed them as the saviors of the nation and gave them all manner of provisions and supplies, so that they lacked for nothing.

When Gen. Yi T'ā-jo reached the neighborhood of Song-do he sent a letter to the king saying, "As General-in-chief Ch'oe-yŭng does not care for the welfare of the people he must die. Send him to me for execution." But Gen. Ch'oe did not intend to give up without a struggle, however hopeless his case might be; so he took what troops were left and manned the walls of Song-do. It was a desperate move, for all saw what the end must be. Hundreds of soldiers who had deserted now flocked again to the standards of Gen. Yi.

When the attack came off, Gen. Yi stormed the South Gate and Gen. Yu Man-su the West Gate, and soon an entrance was effected. It is said that after entering the city the first attack upon the royal forces was made by Gen. Yu alone and that he was driven back. When this was told Gen. Yi he seemed not to care but sat on his horse and let it crop the grass along the path. After a time he partook of some food and then leisurely arose, drew up his forces and in full view of them all took a shot at a small pine that stood a hundred paces away. The arrow cut it sheer off and the soldiers hailed it as a sign of victory, for was not the pine the symbol of Koryŭ? So they marched on the palace. The old men and boys mounted the city walls and cheered the attacking forces. Gen. Yi did not lead the attack in person and his lieutenant was beaten back by the royal forces under Gen. Ch'oe. Gen. Yi thereupon took in his hand a yellow flag, crossed the Sŏn-juk bridge and ascended South Mountain from which point he obtained a full view of the interior of the palace. He saw that Gen. Ch'oe and the king, with a band of soldiers, had taken refuge in the palace garden. Descending the mountain he led his troops straight through every obstacle, entered the palace and surrounded the royal party. Gen. Ch'oe was ordered to come out and surrender but as there was no response the garden gate was burst open and the king was discovered holding the hand of Gen. Ch'oe. As there was no longer hope of rescue the king, weeping, handed over the loyal general to the soldiers of Gen. Yi.

He stepped forward and said "I had no intention of proceeding to these extremes, but to fight the Ming power is out of the question. It is not only useless but suicidal to attempt such a thing. I have come back to the capital in this manner because there was no other way open to me, because it was a traitorous act to attack our suzerain, and because the people of Koryŭ were suffering in consequence of the withdrawal of protection." Gen. Ch'oe was then banished to Ko-yang and Gen. Yi, as he sent him away, wept and said "Go in peace."

The records say that long before this the evil-minded Yi In-in had foretold to Gen. Ch'oe that one day Gen. Yi T'ā-jo would become king, but at the time Gen. Ch'oe laughed at it. Now he was forced to grant that the prophecy had been a true one. A popular song was composed at this time, whose refrain states that

"Outside the wall of P'yŭng-yang there is a red light,  
Outside the wall of An-ju a snake.  
Between them comes and goes a soldier, Yi.  
May he help us."

When Gen. Ch'oe had thus been disposed of, Gen. Yi turned to the king and said "It was impossible to carry out the plan of conquest. The only thing left was to come back, banish the man who gave such bad advice and make a new start. We must now be firm in our allegiance to the Ming emperor, and we must change back to the Ming costume."

The emperor, hearing of the threatened invasion, had sent a powerful army into Liao-tung, but now that the invaders had retired he recalled the troops.

We can easily imagine how the king, who had never been balked of his will, hated Gen. Yi. The moment an opportunity occurred he called about him eighty of his most trusted eunuchs, armed them with swords and sent them to kill the obnoxious dictator. But they found him so well guarded that the attempt proved abortive.

It will be remembered that this king was the son of Sindon and was therefore not of the royal stock. So now the courtier Yun So-jŭng told Gen. Yi that they ought to find some blood relative of the Wang family, the genuine royal stock, and put him on the throne. To this the dictator assented. As a first move all arms were removed from the

palace. The king was left helpless. He was ordered to send away one of his concubines who had formerly been a monk's slave but he replied "If she goes I go." The generals went in a body to the palace and advised the king to leave the capital and retire into private life in Kang-wha. This was a polite way of saying that he was banished. He plead to be allowed to wait till the next day as it was now well along toward night. And so this evil king took his concubines, which he had always cherished more than the kingdom, and passed off the stage of history. He it was who most of all, excepting only his father, helped to bring about the fall of the dynasty.

Gen. Yi now, in 1388, was determined to put upon the throne a lineal descendant of the Wang family, but Cho Min-su with whom he had before conferred about the matter desired to put Chang, the adopted son of the banished king, on the throne. Gen. Yi demurred, but when he learned that the celebrated scholar Yi Säk had favored this plan he acquiesced. The young king wanted to give Gen. Yi high official position but he was not anxious to receive it and it was only by strong pressure that he was induced to take it. So the records say, but we must remember in all this account that hero worship and desire to show the deeds of the founder of the new dynasty in the best light have probably colored many of the facts which occurred at this time.

As this king was never acknowledged by the emperor nor invested with the royal insignia, his name is dropped from the list of the kings of Koryü. Neither he nor his foster-father were given the regular posthumous title, but were known, the father as Sin-u and the son as Sin Chang.

An envoy was dispatched to Nanking telling of the banishment of the king and the appointment of his successor. Cho Min-su who had been instrumental in putting this new king on the throne was not so modest as the records try to make us believe Gen. Yi was. He now held almost unlimited power. It spoiled him as it has spoiled many another good man, and he gave way to luxury and ere long had to be banished, a victim of his own excesses.

Reform now became the order of the day. First they changed the unjust and shameful manner of appointing

officials that had prevailed under the banished king. The laws respecting the division of fields was changed, making the people more safe in the possession of their property. The defenses of the south were also looked to, for Gen. Chōng Chi went south with a powerful force and scored a signal victory over the corsairs at Nam-wūn. Gen. Yi T'ā-jo was now general-in-chief of all the royal forces. His first act was to have the banished king sent further away, to the town of Yō-heung; and at the same time the banished Gen. Ch'oe Yŭng was executed. The old man died without fear, at the age of seventy. He was not a man who had given himself over to luxury and he had many good qualities, but he was unlettered and stubborn and his crime in desiring to attack China brought him to his death. The records say that when he died he said "If I am a true man no grass will grow on my grave," and the Koreans say that his grave in Ko-yang is bare to this day and is called in consequence "The Red Grave."

The emperor's suspicions had been again roused by the new change of face on the part of Koryū. The celebrated scholar Yi Sāk stepped forward and offered to go to the emperor's court and smooth things over. Gen. Yi praised him highly for this act of condescension and he was sent as envoy. He took with him Gen. Yi's fifth son who is known posthumously by his title T'ā-jong. He was destined to become the third king of the new dynasty. He was taken to China by Yi Sāk because the latter feared that Gen. Yi might usurp the throne while he was gone and the son would then be a sort of hostage for good behavior on the part of the father. The two great men of Koryū, when it fell, were Chōng Mong-ju and this Yi Sāk. They were both men of education and experience and were both warm partizans of the Koryū dynasty. They were loyal to her even through all the disgusting scenes herein described, but their great mistake was their adherence to the Mongol power when it had plainly retired from active participation in the affairs of Asia. Yi Sāk now sought the court of China not so much with a view to helping Koryū as to find means to get Gen. Yi into trouble. But to his chagrin the emperor never gave him an opportunity to say what he desired to say about the great dictator.





